

*Binding - Shoutage*

# SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

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*Driemaandeliks uitgegee deur die*  
SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEEKVERENIGING  
*Geredigeer vanuit die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek, Kaapstad*

Deel 20

Julie 1952

No. 1



"When I consider what some books have done for the world, and what they are doing, how they keep up our hope, awaken new courage and faith, give an ideal life to those whose hours are cold and hard, bind together distant ages and foreign lands, create new worlds of beauty, bring down truth from heaven : I give eternal blessings for this gift, and thank God for books."

—James Freeman Clarke

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# SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

*Die Offisiële Orgaan van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging*

Deel 20

Julie 1952

No. 1

## BIBLIOTEKE EN DIE VAN RIEBEECK - FEES

deur D. L. EHLERS

ONS GESLAG het die voorreg te beurt geval om deel te neem aan die driehonderdjarige herdenking van die landing van Jan van Riebeeck aan die suidpunt van Afrika. Hierdie voorreg het egter ook die verantwoordelikheid meebring om op aanskoulike wyse aan die wêreld te toon watter vordering daar in Suid-Afrika op allerlei gebiede gemaak is.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging het hierdie verantwoordelikheid terdeë besef: In opdrag van sy Raad het sy Publisiteitskomitee 'n portfolio van historiese prente wat 'n goeie oorsigtelike beeld gee van toestande tydens en kort na die stigting van die volksplanting, saamgestel en teen 'n baie billike prys aan biblioteke en skole te koop aangebied vir uitstalling tydens plaaslike feesvierings.

Verder is vyf artikels wat spesiaal vir die geleentheid geskryf is, uit die April-uitgawe van hierdie blad onder die titel „Boeke en lesers in Suid-Afrika, 1652-1952” in die vorm van 'n brosjure herdruk. Eksemplare hiervan 2s. 6d. elk is by die Sekretaris van die S.A. Biblioteekvereniging verkrygbaar.

Met die goedkeuring van die Raad, het die Kaapse Tak op versoek van die Departement van Onderwys, Wetenskap en Kuns, 'n uitstalling van die ontwikkeling van biblioteke in Suid-Afrika in die „Saal van die Onderwys” op die Van Riebeeck-feesskou gereël. Met die welwillende medewerking van biblioteke en uitgewers oor die hele land, is daarin geslaag

om, ondanks die beperkte ruimte, 'n verteenwoordigende beeld te gee van Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteektoestande deur middel van foto's en plakate. 'n Versameling van onlangse Suid-Afrikaanse publikasies, goedgunstiglik deur die uitgewers geleen, is uitgestal en 'n gedupliseerde katalogus daarvan is te koop aangebied.

Sommige van die plaaslike komitees het ook gedurende die besoek van die poskoetse paslike uitstallings in hul biblioteke gereël, soos byvoorbeeld Johannesburg en Durban. Plaaslike uitstallings het egter 'n hoogtepunt bereik in Kaapstad waar die verantwoordelike komitee 'n glansryke en omvangryke uitstalling van boeke en kaarte onder die titel „Boekspieël van Suid-Afrika” in die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek vanaf 1 Maart tot 12 April gereël het. 'n Tweetalige beskrywende katalogus van hierdie uitstalling, sowel as 'n faksimile-uitgawe van die seldsame pamflet deur Hondius, *Klare ende Korte Besgravinge van het Land aan Cabo de Bona Esperanca* met 'n Engelse vertaling, is te koop aangebied en is nog by die Bibliotekaris, S.-A. Biblioteek, verkrygbaar.

'n Mens kan miskien sê dat daar meer prominensie aan biblioteekaangeleenthede gegee kon geword het veral in die uitstallings van die vier Provinsiale Administrasies, maar oor die algemeen kan bibliotekarisse met tevredenheid terugkyk op die aandeel wat biblioteke in die feesvierings gehad het.

# THE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY SERVICE IN NATAL

by T. FRIIS

*Library Organiser, Natal Provincial Administration*

IN TERMS of the Financial Relations Act, no. 10 of 1913, the *administration* of public libraries could be transferred to any Province with the concurrence of the Administration concerned. The Cape accepted responsibility in 1913, the Transvaal in 1914 and the Orange Free State in 1941. Powers to *establish* library services were, however, not provided until the Financial Relations Act was amended accordingly in 1949. The Natal Province was entrusted with these powers in terms of Proclamation no. 190 of 12 August 1949 (Government Gazette no 4217). In the meantime, following the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Libraries of the Union of 1937, Provincial Administrations had been called upon to abandon the principle of making annual grants to individual libraries, and to initiate free Provincial Library Services. The Transvaal initiated its free Provincial Library Scheme

in 1944, the Cape and the Free State in 1948, but Natal, not until 1952.

## NATAL LIBRARY SURVEY

Before any Province can begin to organize its Library Services a survey of existing library conditions is essential. It should take into consideration such factors as: the geographical distribution of the population, the relative proportion of the different racial and language groups, their density and distribution, and such library facilities as already exist.

## DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

According to the Census Report of 1946, Natal had a greater number of persons to the square mile than any other Province: in the Cape, 1 to every 44 acres, in the Transvaal, 1 to 17 and in the Free State, 1 to every 36. In Natal there is one to every 10 acres, or, put another way, the number of persons per square mile in 1946 was: Natal 62, Transvaal 39, Free State 18 and the Cape 15. The following table shows the relative distribution of population and land-areas between the four Provinces:

<i>Province</i>	<i>Area in Square Miles</i>	<i>% of Area of Union</i>	<i>% of total Population</i>	<i>Total Population</i>
			1946	
Cape	277,113	58.65	35.50	4,053,842
Natal	35,284	7.47	19.29	2,202,392
Transvaal	110,450	23.37	37.51	4,283,038
Orange Free State	49,647	10.51	7.70	879,071

It is interesting to note that the European population of Durban and Pietermaritzburg between them constitute two-thirds of the total European population of Natal: they are excluded from the Provincial Library scheme. In the Transvaal approximately 700,000 of the 1,000,000 inhabitants are in towns with populations of more than 10,000 Europeans — approximately the same proportion; and they

are similarly excluded from the Provincial service.

In the rural districts of all four Provinces the Afrikaans-speaking group constitute by far the majority. In Natal the Afrikaans group form approximately 22% of the total European population of the Province. It should also be remembered that 80% of the Asiatics in the Union live in Natal, where they are approximately equal in number to the Europeans in the Province.

<sup>1</sup> Based on a paper read to the Natal Branch, S.A. Library Association, on 16 April 1952.



## EXISTING LIBRARY SERVICES

At present there are 34 public libraries within local authority areas in Natal:

*Boroughs with more than 10,000 Europeans*  
Durban Pietermaritzburg

*Boroughs with fewer than 10,000 Europeans*  
Dundee Port Shepstone  
Estcourt Stanger  
Greytown Utrecht  
Ladysmith Vryheid  
Newcastle  
Pinetown

## Town Boards

Amanzimtoti	Paulpietersburg
Bergville	Richmond
Colenso	Scottsburgh
Empangeni	Southern Umlazi
Eshowe	Umkomaas
Harding	Umzinto
Howie	Verulam
Kloof	Weenen
Mooi River	

## Health Committese

Bulwer	Melmoth	Underberg
Ixopo	Park Rynie	

In addition there are two boroughs — Glencoe and Margate — that have no libraries at all, besides 10 Town Boards and 36 Health Committese.

Mr. E. A. Borland, at that time the Transvaal Library Organizer, made a survey of existing library conditions in Natal in July and August 1950, and reported to the Executive Committee of the Provincial Administration on 28 August 1950.

The following are some extracts from Mr. Borland's report:

*"Free libraries.* Although "free" libraries have been advocated in this country for the last hundred years, there is only one "free" library in existence in Natal, Durban Municipal Library. This library serves 42,663 borrowers, and possesses a book-stock of 144,508 volumes. It is supported out of Municipal revenue to the amount of £24,500 per annum.

In contrast to the success of the "free" library at Durban where 34% of the European population show their appreciation of the library's services by borrowing 883,988 books per annum, the public libraries of the rest of Natal present a very sorry picture.

There is a public library at Pietermaritzburg (European population 26,890) which attracts 1,795 readers (112 of whom reside outside the city), that is, only 6.7% of the Europeans.

In the twelve small boroughs, with a collective European population of 24,229, there are ten libraries claiming only 1,874 readers (7.7% of the European population).

The townships have collectively a European population of 20,984, of whom only 1,271 persons are registered as library readers (6.1%).

The picture in the Health Committee areas and the unincorporated territories is gloomier still. The European population for this group is 47,366; but only 129 of this number are registered as library borrowers (0.3%).

Outside of Durban there are only 5,069 library borrowers in the whole of the Natal Province (i.e. 4.2% of a total available European population of 119,469).

It is true that another two hundred persons borrow books through the post from Durban Municipal Library and the Natal Society Public Library, but in any case, it may safely be said that the rural inhabitants of Natal are starved of the opportunity of borrowing books from libraries.

## SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY SYSTEM

The reasons for this poor showing on the part of the smaller libraries of Natal are not difficult to find. Of primary importance is the fact that the "subscription library" system is inherently a failure.

If, in an attempt to popularize the subscription library, the governing body decreases the amount of subscription, there may be a new influx of members, but there is proportionately less money available for the purchase of books. This leads to dissatisfaction among the members, some of whom resign. On the other hand, if an attempt is made to procure greater funds for the purchase of larger quantities of books, improve-

ment of salaries, etc., by increasing the rates of subscription paid by members, then the number of subscribers decreases. The result is, therefore, that the subscription library, *per se*, cannot be relied upon as a medium for inducing the public to read more and better books. The public library of to-day fails unless it provides an opportunity to all and sundry to come into contact with the great minds of the world through the medium of books; for information as well as recreation. The subscription library caters almost exclusively for the reader who desires to be entertained and not necessarily informed. The subscription library will not spend its precious pounds upon unpopular informational literature, even though it would be of assistance to members of the public in their work and their leisure time pursuits.

The solution then is for the library to call upon some public fund to make good its financial deficiencies. If money is spent on library services by Municipalities and Provincial Administrations, this money should be directed towards services that will influence as great a percentage of the population as possible. The subscription library tends to cater only for the privileged few. The underprivileged group usually cannot afford to pay the subscription asked, or else lacks understanding of the value of reading as a cultural pursuit. These are the very people who should derive the greatest benefit from the civilizing influence of books, but to whom the doors of the subscription library are usually closed.

The "free library" system has been consistently recommended by every enquiry committee appointed since Union, notably the Inter-departmental Committee on Libraries, 1937; and the Adult Education Committee, 1945".

#### MAIN FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED PROVINCIAL LIBRARY SERVICE

The Natal Provincial Library Service is based, firstly, on the principle that it will be a *free service*, and secondly, that the local authority and the Provincial Administration will jointly bear the cost. In adapting this type of scheme to Natal the Administration is making every effort to enhance and build upon the fine achievements and local interest

so far created in many community libraries. We believe that these municipal, township and small Health Committee public libraries can be built into the regional system without in any way losing their identity, their autonomy, their independence or their accumulated achievements. We are also convinced that in most cases their voluntary affiliation in a country-wide system will be a means of improving their book collections, their staff and staff salaries, and the services rendered to their local public. No librarian, no committee or community need have any fear of losing anything by co-operating in the Provincial scheme. There is nothing to lose, but much to gain.

#### LIBRARY AREAS

In contrast with the Transvaal, which is divided for administrative purposes into eight library regions, and the Cape with a probable sixteen, Natal, like the Free State, is being organized into *three* Library regions, as follows:

- (a) *Coastal region*. Regional headquarters Durban. European population: 34,413 (1946).
- (b) *Midland region*. Regional headquarters, Pietermaritzburg. European population: 27,890 (1946).
- (c) *Northern region*. Regional headquarters, Dundee. European population: 30,176 (1946).

#### FINANCIAL BASIS

Once the three regions have been set up, we propose to establish public libraries and depots wherever there is need for them, eventually to the number of 200 or more. The books are all being purchased centrally in Pietermaritzburg, where they are being prepared for circulation. From there they will be sent out to the regional headquarters libraries, and thereafter distributed by means of travelling libraries to the various branches and library depots serving the public.

Any *boroughs* or *townships* wishing to join the Service are required to:

- (a) provide the accommodation for the library; and
- (b) make a grant to their local library at the rate of 3s. per head of European population or 2½% of their general assessed rate, whichever is the lesser.

*Health Committees* or other community groups desiring to join the Service need only :

- (a) provide the accommodation, and
- (b) an honorary librarian.

The Provincial Administration will provide the books that are needed at a minimum rate of the one book for every registered member but not less than 250 books to form the basic stock. The travelling library will visit each depot once a month, when 20% of the basic stock can be exchanged for new books. The smallest library will then have at least 800 new books per year to offer to readers (which is the equivalent of £400 p.a.). Secondly, the Administration will supply the technical advice and assistance of a fully qualified regional librarian, who will help the local librarian with

the accessioning, cataloguing and classifying of her collection, and if necessary, with the reorganizing of the whole library. In addition, a Union Catalogue of all books available in the Province will be built up for inter-loan purposes, and it is hoped to build up a large Central Reference Library in Maritzburg, and smaller reference libraries at each regional library for the use of any library or individual reader. The present basic stock of any library will remain the property of the existing library and will not be taken away except for short inter-library loans.

Out of the grant made locally the library committee pays the local librarian's salary, incidental maintenance expenditure, and the cost of general reference books, such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc.

## ORGANISATION OF THE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

The Library Organizer is in charge of the whole service, and with his personal staff forms the administrative block of the organization. The administrative staff at present consists of the Library Organizer, one library assistant, one woman clerk and a typist.

The next block is the central organization which is divided into three sections: (a) the preparation section, (b) the cataloguing and classification section and, (c) the reference section. A Librarian is in charge of the whole central organization with two assistant librarians, and nine other assistants to help him. All the books are purchased centrally and sent to Pietermaritzburg to the central organization where they are being prepared for circulation.

As already stated Natal is for library purposes divided into three regions: the Northern Region with Dundee as the Regional headquarters, the Midlands with Pietermaritzburg as the headquarters and the North and South Coast with Durban as the Regional Headquarters. The Regional Library builds up its own Reference Library for its region. From the Regional Library the books will be distributed by means of travelling libraries to Public Libraries in boroughs and Townships, Library depots in Health Committee areas and other depots at Woman's Institutes, Post Offices, Rural Schools etc. In exceptional cases where it is impossible for an individual to obtain

his books from any depot and he resides in a very remote place books will be sent by post. In addition to the local depot and Travelling Library any individual has at his disposal the Regional Reference Library, the Central Reference Library in Pietermaritzburg and also the book stock of the whole Province, seeing that the Central Organization will have a Union Catalogue of the holdings of all the Libraries in the Province. In addition we have the State Library inter-library loan scheme at our disposal from which any book that is available in the Union could be obtained on loan free of charge to the borrower. If the public of Natal do not read in the future it will not be the fault of the libraries or of the Provincial Administration.

### PRESENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

- (a) *Accommodation.* At present the central organization in Pietermaritzburg is housed in the old Epworth School Building in Guttridge Street.

As soon as the Land Bank vacates its existing premises to move into a new building in Church Street, the Regional Library will be housed where the Central Organization is at present and the Central Organization will move into the premises at present occupied by the Land Bank.

In Durban we have been able to obtain a very fine building of 5,000 sq. ft. in Maydon Wharf. In Dundee temporary premises are being built by the firm Johnston & Keith of Dundee, and we hope to occupy this as from June 1952.

The Executive Committee has however placed on the estimates for the current year £41,000 for Provincial Library Service buildings. A large double-storey building will be built in College Road next to the Native High Court, at an estimated cost of £23,000. The Provincial architect will within the next week or two ask for tenders for the erection of the building.

The Education Dept. was very generous in letting us have a fine corner erf in Dundee for the erection of a £9,000 regional library there. £9,000 is available for the regional library in Durban.

- (b) *Staff.* At present we are nine on the permanent staff and six on the temporary staff. Recently we had a Public Service inspection, with the result that the inspector recommended the creation of another sixteen

posts in addition to the present fifteen — total permanent staff to be 31. For each Regional Library and Regional Librarian, two library assistants and a messenger boy will be engaged. The salaries of the Regional librarians will be £650 × £50-£900 plus cost of living allowance.

- (c) *Bookstock.* We have already accumulated ca 30,000 books which are being prepared for circulation by the present staff.

- (d) *Travelling libraries.* The first travelling library has just been completed and the other three will be delivered shortly. The Library Organizer's car and the panel van have also been received.

Each travelling library has a shelving capacity of 3,000 books with built-in tables, chairs and cabinets.

- (e) *Ordinance.* The Executive Committee has approved of the draft library ordinance which will be laid before the Provincial Council during the next session in June.

- (f) *Public Libraries* and depots which have already applied for membership and have been approved by the Library Organizer:

<i>Northern Region</i>	<i>Midlands Region</i>	<i>Coastal Region</i>
Qudeni	Winterton	Park Rynie
Louwsberg	Dalton	Kloof
Nongoma	Mackenzie	South Port
Utrecht	Kranskop	Renishaw
Dundee	Moorriver	Umhlanga Rocks
Paulpietersburg	Bulwer	Maidstone
Dannhauser	Ixopo	Anerley
	Harding	Mtunzini
	Donnybrook	Esperanza
	Underberg	Margate
	Rietvlei	Uvongo
	Estcourt	Paddock
		Verulam
		Umzinto
		Gingindlhovo

In addition, 15 other communities have signified their intention of joining the service, making in all as many centres as we can expect to cope with in the initial stages of the scheme. It is of interest to note that in terms of a resolution passed on 29 February 1952 by the Durban City Council, the service hitherto provided by the Durban Municipal Library to country members will now be discontinued, and this work will be taken over by the Provincial Service.

- (g) *Date of inauguration of travelling library services.* We hope to begin our services in all three regions simultaneously some time during June, 1952. The service will be inaugurated by His Honour the Administrator of Natal.

- (h) *Finance.* The estimated cost to the Province for the current financial year will be approximately £90,000 including building and other capital expenditure. The ordinary



expenditure will be between £30,000 and £40,000.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For their valuable services in laying the foundations of this Provincial Library scheme in Natal I wish to pay particular tribute to His Honour the Administrator, Hon. D. G. Shephstone, and his Executive Committee, who have so willingly helped us and made available the essential funds; to Mr. E. A. Borland who with his experience as Library Organizer for the Transvaal was able to carry out the

survey on which the present scheme has been based; and to Dr. R. A. Banks, who was appointed to the temporary post of Library Development Officer for Natal during 1950. Dr. Banks toured the whole Province, explaining the scheme to local authorities, and making contacts which have proved to be a valuable asset in the building up of the Library Service. We have been fortunate in retaining his services at least until September 1952, and are grateful to him for all he has done to prepare the way for the Natal Provincial Library Service of the future.

## A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL TOUR OF WESTERN EUROPE

by A. M. LEWIN ROBINSON

*Deputy Librarian, South African Library, Cape Town*

FOR THE LIBRARIAN or bibliographer a tour of Europe to-day is a stimulating experience. So much is being done both in the national and international spheres to fill one with hope for the future, and in this the guidance and support of Unesco plays no small part.

During the summer of 1951 I was able to visit five countries on the Continent with a view to discovering what bibliographical work is being done and what techniques have been evolved. This was made possible through the generosity of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. As a useful preliminary I had the privilege of attending the meeting of the Committee of experts on improvement of bibliographical services convened by Unesco in London in April, 1951, being unexpectedly invited to join as the only representative of the African continent. The members of the Committee were from Great Britain, Holland, France, Denmark, India, Lebanon, Cuba and the U.S.A., and certain international bodies were represented as observers or guests. The chairman was Mr. Julien Cain, director of the Bibliothèque Nationale, and Mr. F. C. Francis of the British Museum was the rapporteur. Notable delegates were Dr. L. Brummel of the Royal Library at the Hague, Dr. Ranganathan of Madras, Dr. T. P. Sevensma of I.F.L.A., M. Breycha-Vauthier of the UN Library, Geneva, Ir. Donker Duyvis of the

F.I.D. and Dr. J. E. Holmstrom of the science division of Unesco. It was the business of the Committee to make recommendations to the Director-General of Unesco, of the following nature:

1. The setting up of a permanent international advisory committee on bibliography responsible to Unesco.
2. The preparation of manuals on the creation and operation of national bibliographical services.
3. The establishment of a national bibliographical and documentation centre in Latin America as a "pilot project" — i.e. a test case for future guidance. Several projects in other fields are in operation in underdeveloped countries under Unesco's technical assistance programme. On behalf of the S.A. Library Association's Bibliographical Sub-committee, I advocated the establishment of such a project on a *regional* basis for Southern Africa — a suggestion which was sympathetically received.
4. The improvement of the availability of existing international bibliographies, notably technical abstracts.
5. The preparation of a guide to national centres of bibliographical information.

As the result of attending this conference I went abroad in June having met at least six

people eminent in their field whose acquaintance I was able to renew. I journeyed first to Switzerland, thence to Paris, Brussels, Antwerp, The Hague, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Copenhagen and Aarhus (Jutland) before returning to England. I shall deal with each centre in that order.

#### GENEVA

Geneva — a beautiful city in a perfect setting — is the headquarters of a number of international organizations, the most notable of which are the United Nations (European headquarters) and certain of its specialized agencies, viz. International Labour Organization, World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization, and also of other bodies such as the International Bureau of Education. Of these the United Nations is naturally the most important from the library viewpoint.

*UN Library.* The Library is housed in spacious quarters in the Palais des Nations and was of course formerly that of the League of Nations. It was originally built to accommodate 1,000,000 volumes, but it is not now considered to have room for more than 800,000. At present it has 380,000 volumes and four specialized reading rooms of which one — Economics, Finances and Transport — is in charge of a South African. The library of WHO is also in the building. The bibliographical work of the UN Library is confined to:

1. *Monthly list of selected articles* (1929-)
2. *Monthly list of books catalogued in the Library* (1928-).

Of these 1. is likely to be most valuable outside. Its simple method of compilation requires the selection of articles by the librarian who marks them by putting a coloured cataloguing slip — a different colour for each subject — in the periodical. The cataloguer is guided by this and the printer sets up type direct from the slips.

*ILO Library.* Unlike the UN Library that of the ILO is seriously over-crowded. It is claimed to be the most complete on labour matters in the world in spite of the wartime gap when the headquarters were in Montreal. It has 40,000 periodical titles alone, recorded and classified by the excellent "Synoptic" system which space does not allow us to go into here. My colleague Dr. H. Coblans has described it fully elsewhere.

Bibliographies on special subjects are compiled as required, e.g. Government publications, Free material available, Exchanges. A considerable work, *Catalogue of ILO publications in English* 1919-1950, has recently been completed.

*International Bureau of Education.* Of no particular bibliographical importance, the Bureau presents a permanent exhibition of children's and school books of considerable interest. I was sorry to find no South African items among the children's books and two rather uninspiring examples among the school books.

#### BERN

The bibliographical centre proper of Switzerland is in Bern where is to be found *Die Schweizer Landesbibliothek* (La Bibliothèque Nationale Suisse). Unlike most other national libraries it confines itself to Swiss material — publications of Switzerland, books about the country and books by Swiss authors. It is surprising to find that Switzerland has no legal deposit but instead the National Library has an agreement with the publishers whereby all publications are sent free to be recorded in the official bibliographies produced by the Library, some of which are published by the book trade organization. The number of these bibliographies is remarkable. Briefly they are divided into: *A.* Regional bibliographies; *B.* Subject bibliographies; and *C.* International subject bibliographies.

In group *A* the most important are:

- (i) *Das schweizerische Buch* — published at lengthy intervals, the latest being for the period 1931-1940.
- (ii) *Das schweizer Buch. Serie A* (semi-monthly) — confined to trade publications.
- (iii) *Das schweizer Buch. Serie B* (bi-monthly) — containing non-trade publications.

Other titles in this group are those for official publications, women writers and different regions of the Swiss federation.

*Group B* includes no less than 18 current subject bibliographies though they are not all up to date. Law, history, music, education medicine and natural sciences are among them.

*Group C* is the smallest and its three items — tropical literature, philosophy and folklore are of recent origin.



This formidable array is all compiled in the most efficient manner and with the least duplication of effort. The cataloguing department is the bibliographical centre at one and the same time. Its staff numbers nine and that of the acquisitions department five. Books are catalogued on master slips with code letters printed down one side signifying the different bibliographies. The head of the department indicates by a tick for which of these the particular title will be needed. Sufficient cards are made for a copy to be passed to the editor of each bibliography interested and the latter's job is confined to checking and arrangement. It is a remarkable organization.

## PARIS

*Unesco.* The manifold activities of Unesco are now well known and established. The quarters in the former Hotel Majestic in the Avenue Kléber are already outgrown, but hum with life and directed activity. Its library is of modest proportions and closely geared to the staff requirements. It does not itself do bibliographical work of importance. The Libraries and documentation division of Unesco — under which incidentally the library does not fall — is under the direction of Mr. E. J. Carter, formerly of the R.I.B.A. in London, Mme. Denise Ravage and Mr. H.C. Campbell. Discussion with them was particularly rewarding and enabled the position of African bibliography to be made clear. Unesco's contribution to bibliographical work hitherto has been through technical assistance programmes as described above, and the subsidy of certain publications produced elsewhere, such as the *International folklore bibliography* being compiled in Switzerland.

There are schemes afoot for sending experts to Persia, Turkey and Syria for periods of at least 18 months to build up libraries and/or bibliographical services. The present difficulty is finding suitable candidates who are in a position to undertake the work. Actually being compiled at Unesco headquarters is the *Index translationum* covering all translations published in all countries. South African contributions, including works translated into Afrikaans and Bantu languages, are supplied by the State Library, Pretoria.

*Bibliothèque Nationale.* The great national library of France is an imposing institution

under the direction of M. Julien Cain. Bibliography is centred in the Salle des catalogues — a great underground chamber beneath the main reading room. The catalogues of the library are many and varied due to the age of the institution and the different forms of compilation from time to time. *Le Catalogue général des livres imprimés*, started 50 years ago, has only reached the letter S so that reference must still be made to the earlier MS. catalogues. There are also numerous photocopied subject catalogues including one for Africa. Current cataloguing is standard. Competent bibliographical work is done also and published in the monthly *Bulletin de documentation bibliographique* (bibliography of bibliographies) and their *Manuels de la recherche documentaire en France* which are assisted by Unesco. The B.N. is also the headquarters of the *Union française des organismes de documentation*. This body has drawn up its Plan général which divides up the whole field of knowledge in the French language, each section being entrusted to an expert in that field as président. By June 1951 Philosophy and Geography had been completed.

*Bibliothèque de la Sorbonne.* The library of the University of the Sorbonne is a vast one but in most respects old fashioned and gloomy. The Salle de bibliographie however possesses probably the finest collection of bibliographies in France. The director of the department, Mlle. Malclès is also professor of bibliography. She has recently published the first (general) volume of her *Les sources du travail bibliographique* claimed to be the most important work yet published in French on the subject.

*Musée de l'Homme.* The *Musée de l'Homme* is housed in part of the Palais du Chaillot, recently used for the UN General Assembly, It has various research departments and an anthropological library rich in Africana. It is the headquarters of the *Société des Africanistes* and other learned societies. A current *Bibliographie africaniste* has appeared in the former's *Journal* since 1930 and is compiled in the Museum's library. Mlle. Audant, the librarian, has experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining South African publications through London. She would appreciate regular lists of important anthropological works published here and could undertake exchanges.

## BRUSSELS

Before World War I Brussels was the bibliographical centre of Europe for it was there in 1895 that Otlet and Lafontaine founded the *Institut International de Bibliographie* and conceived the expansion of Dewey's decimal classification, now known as U.D.C., as well as the vast project of a universal bibliography on cards. To-day however the focus has moved to the Hague.

*Le Palais mondial / Mundaneum; centre scientifique, documentaire, éducatif et social.* Otlet and Lafontaine's foundation comprises in theory a universal bibliography, an international library, and international museum, a union of international associations and an international university, but in fact it is a monument to a magnificent conception. Inadequacy of finances has rendered it little more than a name. The present General Secretary, M. Lorphevre, has great faith but clearly quite insufficient staff. The most practical part of its work is its function as headquarters of the Belgian Institute of Bibliography and the French edition of the U.D.C. The latter is done well. The universal bibliography, purporting to contain over 12,000,000 cards is quite frightening to behold. In most cases the entries are slips cut from printed catalogues and mounted on cards. They are arranged both alphabetically and by U.D.C. Additions of the past few years are admitted to be rather behind-hand. Other documentation efforts are the vertical file of biographical information and the file of specimens of periodicals, i.e. a file in which specimen issues only are preserved. Both these are certainly of value.

*Bibliothèque Royale.* The Belgian national library is housed in a former royal palace and is badly in need of expansion. It contains many valuable treasures and a magnificent collection of prints and drawings. The bibliographical work of the library consists of: (1) *Bibliographie de Belgique* (monthly) which is compiled from the general catalogue with an annual index and contains all Belgiana. There is no legal deposit but unlike the Swiss National library they cannot be sure of completeness; (2) *Liste des acquisitions des bibliothèques scientifiques de Belgique*. 6 vols. 1930 (classified).

*Ministère des Colonies.* Though not particularly spectacular the Library of the Ministry of Colonies is probably the most comprehensive collection of Africana on the Continent. It is not confined to the Congo and Ruanda-Urundi. Its bibliographical output has been considerable and bears witness to the capabilities of its librarian M. van Grieken. Current bibliography is represented by:

- (1) *Bibliographie courante* (In *Zaire; revue congolaise*, 1947-). It may also be purchased as a separate and is a model of form. Subject bibliography is being covered by the series:
- (2) *Cahiers belges et congolais*, Institut royal colonial belge, 1945-, of which up to 1950 seven parts have been published for the period 1939-1949. Before the war other work was published, notably:
- (3) *Index bibliographique coloniale du Congo Belge et Ruanda Urundi*, 2 vols. 1937-39.

## TERVUEREN

*Musée du Congo Belge.* The superb Congo museum is situated some 11 kms. from Brussels in a park once used for a colonial exhibition. The library of the Museum is the most complete scientific one for the Congo. Several series of monographs are published there and also: the *Bibliographie ethnographique du Congo Belge et des régions avoisinantes*, 1932- (annual). This is exchanged with the principal South African museum publications.

## ANTWERP

Antwerp, predominantly a Flemish speaking city, is not an important bibliographical centre. It has however the *Institut Universitaire des Territoires d'Outre-mer*. This institution was founded some thirty years ago to train students for the colonial administration. Its library possesses one of the finest collections of African periodicals. The publications of the academic staff are recorded in *Séance académique de reprise de cours* (annual), and the work of old students in *Bulletin de l'Association des anciens étudiants*.

## THE HAGUE ('s Gravenhage)

The Hague is one of the pleasantest cities in Europe and one with a great deal to offer. The *International Federation for documentation*

(FID) of which Ir. F. Donker Duyvis is the general secretary, has its offices at the Netherlands Patent Office. The work of the Federation, which includes the control of the Universal decimal classification, need not be detailed here<sup>1</sup>. It was however most rewarding to meet Dr. Donker Duyvis and the deputy general secretary, Mr. W. van der Bruggen. Mnr. Donker Duyvis showed me something of the work of the *Netherlands Institute for documentation and research*, which is the Dutch section of the FID. It compiles bibliographies on technical subjects on request, and the Patent Office grants special facilities to its workers. It was here that I was first shown the remarkable Retocé reproduction process — a Dutch patent which produces photochemical copies of documents in a few minutes. When the master transparency has been made copies can be made in a matter of seconds.

*Economische Voorlichtingsdienst*. This documentation service is under the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Some 1600 periodicals are analysed and the contents classified by UDC with brief abstracts. The 1500 items a week this yields are recorded on cards which may be subscribed to complete or by subject. An all-in subscription is fl. 3500 p.a. (6 cents per card). Items of South African interest only would cost about fl. 30 (£3) p.a. Such a service is only possible with a most efficient reproduction system cheaper than typography. This is supplied by Retocé.<sup>2</sup>

The most important libraries in the Hague are the *Koninklijke Bibliotheek* and the Library of the Peace Palace. Neither is very noteworthy as a bibliographical centre though they are magnificent institutions. The former — the national library — is quite content to let the Dutch national bibliography be produced commercially by Brinkmann and on its own shelves Dutch books represent only one third of the stock. Of great value however are its union catalogues, one of books in some sixty libraries and the other of periodicals. Hundreds of enquiries are received every week.

*The Library of the Peace Palace* serves the

International Court of Justice which is a UN agency, while the library itself belongs to the Netherlands Carnegie foundation. It is a wonderful law library covering the whole world. The classified *Catalogue de la Bibliothèque* was published in five volumes from 1916-1937 but is unlikely to be continued. The Librarian Dr. Jacob ter Meulen has recently completed his bibliography of Grotius, on whom he is a world authority.

#### AMSTERDAM

The fascinating city of canals has many libraries, the principal being the University and municipal library which still officially combines the two functions, and the *Openbare Leeszaal en Bibliotheek* which is the public lending library and not municipal. The former does bibliographical work from time to time, as for example their catalogue of Swedish books, and one of the staff is now working on a catalogue of early printed books.

Of special interest to South Africans is of course the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Instituut* with its associated *Zuid-Afrikaansche Vereeniging*. They have a fairly good library but there are serious lacunae. The Secretary complains that South African publishers do not make sufficient use of their periodical *Zuid-Afrika* for review purposes. Otherwise their South African connections are good.

*Excerpta medica*. I was very glad to be able to visit the headquarters of an international abstracting journal. *Excerpta Medica* are a medical specialist's abstracts published monthly in English in 15 sections. This necessitates a publication date every other day. To effect this there are two editors-in-chief in Amsterdam and if possible at least two assistant editors for each specialized section in important countries. The work of abstracting is done by experts all over the world and five Amsterdam firms share the work of printing. With every effort however the time lag for the appearance of an abstract from date of original publication of the article is three to eight months.

*Vereeniging ter Bevordering van de Belangen des Boekhandels*. "The association with the long name", as it is known, is the Dutch book trade organization and its library is probably the finest bibliographical one in Europe, containing

<sup>1</sup> See *It's your Federation* (FID publ. no. 256), by W. van der Bruggen.

<sup>2</sup> See van Andel (G. M.) *The library of the Economic information service* (*In Special libraries*, July/Aug. 1949, p. 213-16.) for a clear explanation of this system.

50,000 volumes most of which are bibliographies and catalogues. It was founded over a century ago and is to-day more useful to the researcher than the book trade. Its published catalogue — *Catalogus der Bibliotheek*, 6 vols. 1920-1949. — is a valuable work. It has also an almost complete set of Dutch booksellers' and auction catalogues arranged by place but indexed by firm and owner of library sold, and an enormous card catalogue of 19th century Dutch books, the legacy of a retired bookseller. One could spend many hours there.

## HAMBURG

My stay in Hamburg was incidental and brief but it did enable me to visit the new *University and State Library*. Almost completely destroyed in the war, it has now over 600,000 volumes and a nine floor book-stack. The Director, Dr. Tiemann, was able to show me the two new German national bibliographies. These are:

- (1) *Bibliographie der Deutschen Bibliothek*, Leipzig (East Germany).
- (2) *Deutsche National Bibliographie*, Frankfurt (West Germany).

There is little prospect of their being merged. A new national library for the Federal German Republic is being built up in Frankfurt.

## COPENHAGEN

The capital of Denmark is an important bibliographical centre and illustrates well the degree of centralization that is possible in a small country. Legal deposit has been in force since 1902 but in 1924 was reorganized so that the Royal Library, Copenhagen, and the State Library, Aarhus, receive all publications and the University Library, Copenhagen, receives what it particularly wants. The Royal Library specializes in the humanities and the University in the sciences. Exchange of stock has taken place to this end.

*Royal Library (Det Kongelige Bibliotek)*. Like so many European national libraries, the Danish Royal Library is a fine collection in a very old and beautiful but out of date building. It does not produce the Danish national bibliography, though it helps to a small degree (*vide infra*). Its principal bibliographical work is:

- (1) *Dania polyglotta*, an annual list of all works in foreign languages published in Denmark. It is classified by language and further if warranted. It was started in 1945 but three retrospective volumes for 1901-1944 have since been completed. The State Library at Aarhus assists in the work.
- (2) *Impressa publica Regni Danici*, a list of government publications.
- (3) Union list of foreign books in Danish state libraries, 1901-. (Triennial)
- (4) Danish library guide (*Dansk biblioteks-fører*). This is an essential tool where specialization has been carried to such lengths.

*Danmarks Tekniske Bibliotek*. The Danish Technical Library has over 100,000 volumes and is housed in a large modern building. The Librarian, Dr. A. Möller, is the author of a bibliography of Danish bibliography and of an article on Danish bibliographical services in the *Revue de documentation*, XIV (1947), 1: 22-28. The library compiles an index on cards to some 400 industrial periodicals. These cards, amounting to 5,000 per annum are multigraphed and sold. Entries are very brief and classified by U.D.C. The library is also the headquarters of the Danish section of the F.I.D. and of the *Dansk Central for Dokumentation*, a body with numerous technical libraries as its members for whom it acts as a consultant, organizing libraries, supplying bibliographies and advising on methods of classification and like matters.

*New University Library, Copenhagen. (Universitetsbibliotekets 2. afdeling)*. The New University Library is the Danish central library for science. The *Index medicus Danicus* is produced there, and being confined to the analysing of Danish medical journals, it is possible for the work to be undertaken by one man in its initial stages. The items are catalogued with brief annotations and assigned to one of thirty odd sections. It is to be noted that subject headings and annotations are in English.

*Bibliographic Office (Folkebibliotekernes bibliografiske kontor)*. This comprehensive and efficient institution falls under the Inspectorate of public libraries. Its functions include all those services to the 1500 Danish public



libraries that can be economically centralized. The most considerable of these is the national bibliography (*Dansk bogfortegnelse*) published commercially, weekly, monthly and annually with five-yearly cumulations. For this purpose publishers send their books to the Office for cataloguing after which they receive them back. The Royal Library fills in gaps where necessary. The main sequence of the bibliography is by author but a classified index is set up from carbon copies of the main entry slips. A selection of new books has cards printed for sale to public libraries, the entries being identical with the national bibliography which may be used in ordering them. Cards cost a fraction over 1d. each and are much like those of the Library of Congress. The Office also publishes guides to book selection — a general classified list with index, a shorter list for small libraries and a guide to children's books. An index to Danish library literature appeared in 1950 for the first time. The Danish periodical index is published by the Inspectorate of public libraries.

The services of the Office do not end here but embrace the supply of standard equipment of all sorts, and binding.

#### AARHUS

Aarhus, a town of 100,000 inhabitants on the east coast of the Jutland peninsula, is famed for its State Library and its ultramodern University — to say nothing of its amazing town hall.

*Statsbiblioteket i Aarhus*. The State Library has some 430,000 volumes and is much in need of more accommodation. It combines the functions of central library for the inter-library loan system and that of main library for the University situated on the outskirts of the town.

As before mentioned this library shares the privilege of legal deposit with the Royal Library and assists in the compilation of *Dania Polyglotta* and the Union list of foreign books in state libraries. Since the latter, which is edited at the Royal Library, is usually some years late in appearance the State Library issues an abridged version for public library use compiled from carbon copies of its own catalogue cards.

The work of the university section of the library is mostly done by the eighteen small departmental libraries attached to the "institutes" of the University some two miles away. The superintendence of these is entrusted to a lecturer in history as a part-time occupation. Administratively however the constitution of the "institute" — lecture room, library and staff rooms is very interesting.

In conclusion, one could not hope to meet a pleasanter, more hospitable group of people than the librarians and bibliographers of Western Europe. Although in many cases short of funds and new buildings they are full of hope and enterprise and in matters bibliographical we have much to learn from them.

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#### MISS JOSE WOOD

The following address was given by Professor Michael Roberts at the Rhodes University Graduation Ceremony on 28 March 1952, when the degree of M.A., *honoris causa*, was conferred on Miss Jose Wood for her outstanding services in organizing the South African Library for the Blind.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor :

During the influenza epidemic of 1918, two women were nursing the sick in the Grahamstown Location. One of them was a medical missionary, by name Miss Comber; the other was Miss Jose Wood, whom the University to-day is proud to honour. Miss Comber had come to South Africa to do work among the blind. She had found herself from the start handicapped by the high rate of illiteracy prevailing among them, and by the lack of Braille books for their reading. She had set herself to teach Braille,

and she had acquired the nucleus of a small library of Braille books. But in 1918 she was thinking of leaving South Africa, and was looking around for someone to take over her work. Miss Comber must have been a woman of unusual discernment; for the person to whom she turned proved to be uniquely qualified for the task. That person was, of course, Miss Wood; and after some little hesitation Miss Wood accepted a call she had neither sought nor foreseen. In March 1919 she was embarked upon what was to be the work of her life.

The beginnings were modest indeed: a hundred volumes of Braille books stored in her own house; herself to manage their circulation; some twenty or thirty readers to read them; and financial resources dependent upon the generosity of private donors. No central organization cared for the blind of South Africa: a number of distinct and overlapping



The Talking Book Department, S.A. Library for the Blind

charitable associations dealt piecemeal with a problem which demanded an integrated national effort. Apart from the books in Miss Wood's house, no library for the blind existed. Miss Wood confronted the situation with energy, pertinacity, and resource. It was her initiative, her persuasions, that were mainly responsible for the foundation of the National Council of the Blind, which unified into a single body the scattered efforts of earlier years. It was she who, by mere force of her personal achievement, induced the Provinces and the Union Government to make substantial contribution for books for the blind; it was she who induced the postal authorities to transmit Braille books at almost nominal rates. For in the years after 1919 her books and her readers grew steadily, and the importance of what she was doing for South Africa became plain for all to see. By 1924 it had become so important that a bequest from the Bannerman estate made possible the erection of the Library which stands in the High Street; and from the beginning it was, not the "Grahams-town", but the "South African Library for the Blind". In the years that followed, the collection of books overflowed their original quarters, and to-day it stands at 13,000 volumes; and even Miss Wood's energy could no longer cope with the work unaided. She gathered a staff around her, she called a Council

into existence to assist her. But though the venture grew so greatly, it was Miss Wood who remained the directing and inspiring genius of it all. The books which she sent out began to go further and further afield: to South-West Africa, to the Rhodesias, to Nyasaland, to Mauritius, even to Gambia. To-day, the Library for the Blind is a great national institution; and Miss Wood herself is a national figure.

For thirty-three years she has carried on the work, with a single-minded devotion which finds few parallels in our own day, and with a business-like efficiency which has drawn spontaneous tributes from government auditors. By her personal exertions, never relaxed, she has done more, perhaps, than any living South African to alleviate the afflictions of the unfortunate. It is a career which, in its constancy and self-forgetfulness, recalls the great figures of an earlier age. In the eighteenth century, which a great social historian has qualified as "the age of administrative nihilism", such careers were inevitably more frequent than they are to-day, for then the absence of social services presented the individual with more obvious challenges: nowadays, when the welfare-state seems likely to reduce the exercise of the first of Christian virtues to the dead level of an extra sixpence on the income-tax, they shine the brighter for their rarity.



## THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND GRAHAMSTOWN, C.P.

by J. E. Wood<sup>1</sup>

THE NUCLEUS of the library was brought out from England by a missionary, Miss Eleanor Comber, who thought of starting religious study for the blind. She found that there were no books of any kind for those who had left school. She collected books from friends overseas in Braille and Moon Type. These she sent by post to between twenty and thirty readers.

In 1919, Miss Comber intended returning to England and persuaded Miss Wood to take over a hundred books and pamphlets. There were no funds and no shelves. Very slowly the number of readers increased and gradually more books were added. Then, in 1921, the two great English institutions helped. The National Institute for the Blind sent out a large case of books. The National Library for the Blind, London, lent us books free of charge and through this library we had a gift of 82 volumes from the American Braille Press in Paris.

In 1921 Miss Krause came to help and stayed 28 years. A few years later, Miss Blackwell joined us and soon became the Braille expert who trained many transcribers to put books into Braille.

In 1923, the Cape Provincial Council made us a grant of £100 — our first public grant. In the same year a committee was formed and in the following year a Trust Deed was drawn up under which public bodies in Grahamstown nominated members to form a Council which took over the direction of the Library from the Committee. The Library was in one small room in Miss Wood's house.

In 1924, a bequest from the Bannerman Estate enabled the Council to buy an old stone building in the High Street and have it transformed into a library and three flats. In August 1925, Mr. Advocate Bowen came

up from Cape Town to open the Library. Mr. Bowen said "this little ceremony marks a very decided epoch in the history of the blind of South Africa as it is the first occasion that can be claimed as a National movement".

By this time readers had increased to 150 and books to 2,000 volumes. A ten minute talk given on the wireless in Johannesburg by Miss Wood helped to increase interest in the work and to find new readers. In this year Public Libraries accepted collecting boxes for us and the collections have proved a steady source of income.

In 1928, the South African Library Association held a conference in Bloemfontein on the occasion of the visit of the representatives of the Carnegie Corporation, Messrs Pitt and Ferguson. The delegates from this library were Professor Bodmer and Miss Wood. The appeal made by Professor Bodmer was sympathetically received and in 1930 the Carnegie Corporation made a grant of £1,200 to pay off the bond on the building. They stipulated that this library should become the headquarters of library work for the blind in South Africa. Johannesburg, Durban and Worcester agreed to this. A few years later Carnegie made a second grant for development.

In 1936, we started the Talking Book Department and special grants for records and equipment were made us by St. Dunstan's and the S.A. National Council for the Blind. In this year we took in the ground floor flat.

In 1938, the other three Provinces made us grants and in 1941, we had our first government grant from the Social Welfare Department.

In 1943, Mr. Samuel Thomson started the Provident Fund as we had no pension fund.

In 1946, one upstairs flat was taken in and we were able to move the talking books upstairs. Three years later Miss Harvey gave us £800 "for talking books and equipment" and we were able to buy 40 Talking Book machines from England to lend or sell to readers. These machines have many improvements

<sup>1</sup> The degree of Master of Arts, *honoris causa*, was recently conferred on Miss J. E. Wood by the Rhodes University, Grahamstown, in recognition of her outstanding work in building up the South African Library for the Blind.

including sapphire needles which save wear and tear on the records.

#### THE LIBRARY, 1952

The Library serves the whole of the Union and sends some books and music as far as Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Mauritius, Gambia, and S. W. Africa.

Readers are of all classes, all ages and of very different tastes. We have a doctor, a minister of religion, a barrister, teachers, piano tuners, telephone operators, organists, masseurs, students Guides and school children.

Except for a few local readers, the books are circulated by post. When the work began the postage was 5*d.* for 6 lbs., so that a book running into six volumes (such as "Ivanhoe" or "Great Expectations") cost 5/- if the reader paid the postage both ways. As a result of an application made through the President of the National Council of Women in Port Elizabeth, the Postmaster-General very soon reduced the rate to 1*d.* for 6 lbs. The rate has since been further reduced to 1*d.* for 3 lbs. rising to 2*d.* for 15 lbs. Labels must have the inscription "LITERATURE FOR THE BLIND" and the name of the sender. We sometimes find the readers cannot afford the postage and so enclose stamped addressed labels for return.

There are three methods of reading available to the blind folk, two of which involve finger touch.

- (i) *Braille* (used for books, magazines, music and correspondence) is a system of dots. There are six dots used in various ways and there are many contractions to save space. Braille can be written with a hand pricker or with a special machine.
- (ii) *Moon Type*. This consists of simplified raised letters, very easily learnt by anyone who is used to ordinary print. It is invaluable to older people who find it difficult to feel the small Braille dots. Moon type cannot be written and is not taught in schools. It is only embossed on one side of a page and so the books are very bulky. Compare "David Copperfield": 23 volumes in Moon to 10 in Braille.
- (iii) *Talking Books* which are read aloud from records used on a special Talking Book machine. (Unfortunately new machines are very difficult to get.) We are able to import

records from England and America though we cannot buy them in South Africa. A short story may be on one record; an average book runs to eight records, but "Gone With the Wind" takes eighty records, so that means one hundred and sixty sides. One side takes about twenty minutes to read. These records are appreciated by those who cannot read by touch and have proved a special boon to newly blinded soldiers.

In addition to books and music we stock a few games such as chess, dominoes, Lexicon, draughts and playing cards.

During World War II we supplied the soldiers at St. Dunstan's Home, Tembani, Cape Town with both records and books until Tembani closed down. We still supply any of the soldiers who have returned to this country.

We have a separate section for non-Europeans, but there are comparatively few who are sufficiently educated to enjoy reading.

We make gifts of Talking Book Records to the blind lepers at Westfort, as they have a Talking Book Machine of their own.

Our books and magazines contain a variety of subjects: History, Religion, Science, Biography, Travel, Poetry, Plays, Music, Chess, Bridge and plenty of fiction including detective stories. Some magazines have knitting patterns and crossword puzzles. The Readers' Digest (in four volumes) is very popular. Our one bilingual magazine is produced at the Blind School, Worcester, and all our Afrikaans books come from there. The Afrikaans Bible (Braille) is in seventy-five volumes. We have only one Talking Book magazine, the Readers' Digest in 12 records. After circulating to a number of readers the records are returned to America to be re-pulped.

Most of our books and magazines come from overseas. The National Institute for the Blind, London, makes us a discount of 75% as we belong to the British Commonwealth. We have a standing order for all they produce. We borrow books from the National Library, London, paying £25 a year subscription for the 50 readers who use them. In special cases for students they lend books for one student only.

Our trained transcribers give their services and add many books that we cannot buy; often they are books of special South African interest. Readers often give us their own books,

magazines and music. We own over 13,000 Braille and Moon volumes and take thirty-nine magazines. There are over 12,000 Talking Book records (over a hundred books). We supply four hundred and twenty individual readers and five schools and institutions are served.

#### STAFF

Our staff now numbers six. One member copes with correspondence and keeps the books. Two members run the Talking Book department and three members are in the Braille and Moon department. On both there is much clerical work, keeping card indexes, packing, etc. The average number of parcels sent per day is 50. The native messenger takes these to and from the post office by wheelbarrow, sometimes several loads each way.

#### PACKING

Packing Braille and Moon books is heavy work. Each book with a magazine is wrapped up and enclosed in a specially made canvas bag. We need dozens of these bags, which are a great convenience to us and to the readers.

The Talking Book records and the music records need special care. Each record is examined for scratches or breakages when

they come in and they must be dusted when they go out. They are put into fibre cases with plenty of paper round them and then packed in cardboard cartons and firmly tied up. We use hundreds of these cartons as they wear out in the post. The average weight of a parcel is 11 lbs.

#### SPACE

We are badly in need of more space for books etc. We have to face the storage of reports and minutes from UNESCO and from the S. A. Bantu Braille Committee. Unfortunately we have been unable to obtain occupation of our last remaining flat, although it was built for library purposes.

#### FUNDS

The library is free, but people interested give us subscriptions and we get grants from the Union Government, the four Provinces, Municipalities, Divisional Councils, Schools and various Societies.

#### BEQUESTS

We have had eighteen bequests since 1924. These have been a great help.

## THE WORK OF AN AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

by WILFRED J. PLUMBE

*Librarian, Research Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Sudan Government*

ALTHOUGH CERTAIN libraries specialize in agriculture, an agricultural library generally exists only in conjunction with a government department of agriculture, a university, or an institute or experimental station devoted either to agriculture in general or to a particular branch of it. The "library authority" may be the appropriate ministry or department of agriculture, a division of that ministry or department, a university council, a national or international council for agricultural research, or some other official body.

The library is normally administered as a separate department or section of the organiza-

tion concerned; it may, however, be part of its administrative section. Library matters are sometimes dealt with by a library committee but probably in most cases they are not, the librarian being responsible only to his director or other administrative head.

In some cases, the library may have its own budget; often, however, its various items of expenditure fall under headings common to the department or division as a whole. Financial records are maintained by a finance department or accountant, but unless the method of accounting conveniently and separately itemizes

library expenditure the librarian must keep his own accounts also.

In number the staff may vary from one (the librarian) in a small unit to the over 190 (including eighty professional librarians) employed until recently by the United States Department of Agriculture Library. Staff need to be highly qualified as librarians, and if they have subject knowledge of some branch of science (especially chemistry) so much the better. Purely clerical work (copy-typing, filing of correspondence, duplicating) is frequently not done in the library at all, but in a separate office in which the clerical work of the organization is centralized.

The extent of the service given may be limited to the staff of a single research institute or it may be country-wide or international. Large agricultural libraries often have satellite outstation or field libraries. The British Ministry of Agriculture Library has a dozen subsidiary libraries; the United States Department of Agriculture has twenty-five, including libraries as far from Washington as Puerto Rico and Hawaii; the Direction de l'Agriculture of the Belgian Colonial Office maintains nineteen small libraries in Belgian Congo.

Whatever the geographical extent of the service, the library clientèle normally consists of research scientists, field officers, assistant staff doing semi-technical work, and farmers and planters. Many of these may be regarded as specialists, in need for the most part of "advanced" literature in one or another branch of agriculture and its ancillary sciences. The primary concern of the library, therefore, tends to be with research. It must provide every sort of printed and bibliographical aid available to facilitate whatever research is actually in progress or which is envisaged for the future. It must be constantly in touch with specialist agencies, bureaux, individuals and libraries within its field. It must not only acquire information promptly and conserve it but must bring it to the attention of the individuals to whom it is known to be of interest.

How best may it do these things?

First of all, consider the stock of the library. It consists of serials, pamphlets and books, in that order of importance. Even small libraries concerned with agriculture find it necessary to take between 400 and 500 current serials (i.e. periodicals and annual reports) published in perhaps a dozen languages; the United

States Department of Agriculture Library takes nearly 15,000. Ancillary sciences, such as botany, entomology, chemistry, in addition to agriculture proper, need to be covered. In its pamphlet collection the library will include agricultural bulletins of all kinds, circulars, leaflets, reports, conference proceedings, minutes, press cuttings, standards specifications, catalogues of laboratory apparatus and agricultural machinery, manuscripts, letters, picture sheets, experimental plot plans, maps, microfilms and photostats; possibly also herdbooks and archives. The material is likely to be in at least twenty-five languages; some of it may be confidential or for limited circulation. Actual books are probably fewer in number than the volumes of journals or pamphlets in stock; although they rarely contain the most up-to-date information available all those within the scope of the library must necessarily be bought — and the scope tends to expand continually owing to developments in the sciences upon which successful agricultural practice is based. Much of the bookstock is of a "reference" nature, typified by such works as Neave's *Nomenclator zoologicus*, the *Index Kewensis*, the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux' *Parasite catalogue of Lepidoptera* and Frear's *Chemistry of organic and inorganic insecticides*. A comprehensive set of the best language dictionaries is essential and so is a strong bibliographical section.

This being the kind of stock, how may it be obtained, conserved and exploited to ensure greatest benefit to the library users?

#### ACQUISITION OF STOCK

Owing to the enormous number of items concerning agriculture that are published, selection of stock (serials, pamphlets, books), especially if only small funds are available, must be carried out very carefully. Whether the librarian is a subject specialist or not, he will need to seek the advice of individual scientific staff before ordering new publications in their particular fields of research. It is useless, however, to expect prompt and systematic recommendations from scientists in order to build up a balanced and adequate stock as a whole; the initiative has to come from the librarian who must keep himself informed not only concerning current publications but also concerning out-of-print scientific works that



are on the market. Besides the monthly *Bibliography of agriculture* and standard national bibliographies and lists of government publications and publishers' catalogues that are in general use, it is worth-while to examine carefully such publications as the *Monthly list of accessions to the Library* of the Science Museum Library, the *Monthly list of official Colonial publications* issued by the British Colonial Office, the *Digest of books and pamphlets received by the Library* issued by the Commonwealth Relations and Colonial Offices, the classified accessions lists printed regularly in the *Quarterly Bulletin of the South African Library, Cape Town*, and the *Publications acquired in terms of Act No. 9 of 1916 (the Copyright Act)* issued by the State Library, Pretoria. Publishers of new journals of agricultural interest are unlikely to allow the librarian to remain unaware of their existence.

Much of the information needed by library users is not contained in current publications but in back numbers of journals. If those numbers to which it is necessary to refer are not stocked, they must either be borrowed, bought, or the papers concerned obtained in microfilm or photostat form. First, however, they must be located. The *World list of scientific periodicals published in the years 1900-1933* indicates the holdings of nearly 200 libraries in the United Kingdom; the Science Museum's *Hand list of short titles of current periodicals in the Science Library, 1950*, records approximately 7,000 sets; and the *List of serials currently received in the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture, November 1, 1949*, lists over 14,000 titles. To these may be added, for South Africa, P. Freer's *Catalogue of Union periodicals* and its *Supplement*, and the *List of serial publications available in the Johannesburg Public Library*; and, for East Africa, the East Africa High Commission's *Scientific and technical journals held in the principal libraries of British East Africa, June, 1947*. Using these lists it is possible to find most items that an agricultural library is likely to need in microfilm or photostat form.

Subsequent to location of journals, the photo-copies must be requisitioned. From the United Kingdom microfilms or photostats may be obtained notably from the Science Museum Library (which operates an Overseas Photostat Service — but does not send by airmail), and also from the Commonwealth

Agricultural Bureaux and Institutes, ASLIB, and other institutions which are listed in Besterman's *British sources of reference and information*. In U.S.A. the main source is the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture, but numerous subsidiary sources are listed in the American Special Libraries Association *Directory of microfilm services in the United States and Canada*. For South Africa the guide is O. H. Spohr's *Photographic service points in the libraries, archives and museums of South Africa*, published by the University of Cape Town. It is often much easier and quicker and cheaper, these days, to obtain a microfilm or photostat than a back number of a journal.

#### CONSERVATION OF STOCK

There is nothing esoteric about the internal administration of an agricultural library. The same principles apply as in other types of library. If building accommodation is good, stock systematically acquired, shelving and furniture modern, routine methods in accordance with current practice in up-to-date libraries elsewhere, staff well-qualified and convinced of the value of their work — then the standard of service will be high. We mention here only those factors and a few minor points in connection with conservation of stock that are of some importance in agricultural libraries and which are, possibly, different in other types of library.

#### CLASSIFICATION

Much of the material stocked is highly specialized and, even if the collection is relatively small, a classification system affording minute subdivision is essential, especially for pamphlets and offprints of scientific papers. The system selected must place precisely thousands of items (for example) such as *The effects of sodium chloride and of two manganese salts on the growth of wheat and its susceptibility to Ophiobolus graminis Sacc.* The Bliss classification for agriculture is not yet available, the Library of Congress system is lacking in detail under certain headings, and in spite of its faults — in particular, long notation — it appears that the Universal Decimal Classification is the system most suitable. It has the additional advantage over other well-known

systems of having been adopted by several of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux. In general, scientists are not bewildered or irritated by a complex notation provided that it produces the publications they need; though occasionally the U.D.C. does provoke a mild protest, as in the case of the forest entomologist who, after the present writer has classified his library by U.D.C., retorted with the following, entitled "My Books, or Anti-U.D.C.", as a contribution for the library's accessions bulletin:

*I can always put my finger  
On the book I want to find  
And I never need to linger  
Over lists of any kind,  
For I always classify my books  
— I know it isn't right —  
But I always classify my books  
According to their height.*

But the U.D.C. is unlikely to please forest entomologists; the best system for forestry is undoubtedly the Oxford System of Decimal Classification for Forestry evolved by the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau (it is intended that this shall be integrated later with U.D.C.).

In applying the classification schedules certain decisions (as always) need to be taken. In the case of publications on cultivated crops it has been found of practical value to prefer the agricultural to the botanical assignment (e.g. — using U.D.C. — 633.51 Cotton, rather than 582.796 Malvaceae). Publications on insect pests and fungoid diseases of crops are best classified according to hosts, but if the host plant is not grown as an economic or experimental crop the entomological or mycological number may be assigned. The librarian of each library has to make perhaps a score of minor decisions of this nature to suit local requirements.

With regard to *cataloguing*, a few miscellaneous points are as follows: In the subject catalogue (which should be a classified catalogue), many analytical and added entries are required. In the author catalogue, under the heading for each department of agriculture it is convenient to arrange entries by title without subdivision according to the branch, section or division issuing the publication. The serial number of all publications which carry a number, such as United States Depart-

ment of Agriculture bulletins, should invariably appear as part of the entry, since incoming literature citations frequently comprise only author's name and this number. A detailed index to the classification scheme, based on the actual publications in the library, is imperative.

Wear-and-tear of books is relatively light, but there is always a formidable number of parts of journals accumulating for *binding*. Unless the library is large enough for departmentalization, all journals are best arranged in strict alphabetical order according to title, certainly while they await binding. If the needs of research workers preclude their being sent away to binders in the orthodox way, either a library bindery must be established or the journals may be cased by one of the (mis-called) self-binding devices, now on the market, which consist of rexine-covered boards and a spine slotted inside at top and bottom for wires which pass vertically through each number of the journal encased. The latter arrangement is far from ideal but it does ensure that journals are always available for consultation on the library premises, which is sometimes important in research work, and the cost is less than that of orthodox binding. In addition, missing parts may be inserted whenever they can be secured.

#### EXPLOITATION OF STOCK

The effectiveness of the library depends at least as much upon the resourcefulness and knowledge of the library staff as upon the library stock. The actual number of publications "issued" may not be great; it is the bits of information found that matter. If information concerning the toxicity of dinitro-ortho-cresol can be produced, it may be possible to plan an experiment based upon its use. If details of the chemical composition of Wolman salts can be discovered, it may be possible to preserve valuable timber. If particles of pollen found sticking to the proboscis of some injurious insect can be identified it may be possible to destroy the plant on which it feeds. If it can be discovered from the literature how the relationship between phosphate fertilizer and climate affects the yield of a crop perhaps the output of the crop may be doubled and a long and expensive experiment proved unnecessary. To deal with questions of this nature



pre-supposes in the library a sound bibliographical section and a good catalogue; and, in the library staff, an unflagging memory for sources of information. If the library is small, it is convenient to concentrate bibliographies, dictionaries, directories, etc. in the librarian's office, near to the telephone.

Mobility of publications is important; in other words, a rapid means of routing information to the persons requiring it. A compact organization such as an experiment station may employ messengers and each laboratory and office may be linked by an internal telephone system. Agricultural staff working in the field may often be contacted by telephone or telegram instead of by letter; this is particularly important in territories with bad road and rail communications.

But the service an agricultural library gives is normally incomplete unless some way is found of bringing current information to the notice of those library users whose work never brings them to the library itself. They may be investigating tsetse fly in remote forests or taking soil samples in a desert or trying to establish crops in a reclaimed swamp or resettlement area, and they may never, except on leave, come within several hundred miles of the library. For them, and indeed for those also who may spend part of every day in the library, an *accessions bulletin* is invaluable. It should record author, title, date and classification number of all books and pamphlets added to stock, and if titles are not lucid there should be annotations. All journals received should be carefully examined for papers of interest, and these may be listed either by subject or under the title of the journal. Publication should be weekly or fortnightly. To compile such a bulletin effectively it is necessary to maintain in the library a constantly up-to-date record of the research interests of all those to whom the bulletin is sent.

An important feature of any agricultural library service which is at all developed is a

photographic copying service. Requests from outstations and from individuals isolated in the field may be for only a few pages of a journal. From every point of view, unless the library has adequate duplicates, it is better to photograph the few pages concerned rather than send the journal of which they form part. Abstracts, and very brief papers, may be copied by a typist, but even then photographic reproduction is essential for graphs, algebraic formulae, and botanical and other illustrations.

One activity which provides a good deal of purely clerical work is the maintenance of "exchange relations". If the organization of which the library is part issues a journal, it is often circulated by the library to other organizations, institutions and individuals throughout the world who send an enormous variety and number of publications in exchange. Offprints of scientific papers by members of the staff of the organization, and any official publications such as annual reports, bulletins, memoirs, and agricultural leaflets are often distributed in the same way. Publications wanted by the library, when they cannot be obtained otherwise, may sometimes be secured through UNESCO, the United States Book Exchange organization, or the British National Book Centre in London.

\* \* \*

The work of an agricultural library is of immense variety. It keeps the library staff in touch with a diversity of people working in a dozen or more branches of science. It can be exacting, and the routine work is no more exciting than in any other kind of library. But for most of the time is it of compelling interest to anyone who wants to help make "two blades of grass grow where only one grew before" — who feels concern for the future of a corn-patch or a continent.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Subject Index to Periodicals**, 1950; issued by The Library Association. London, 1951. xi, 658p. double col. 25 cm. £5. 5s. 0d.

The 1950 volume of the *Subject Index to Periodicals*, issued by the Library Association, continues the series of volumes which began with 1915, although the gap between 1923 and 1925 has still not been bridged. Since 1947, American and Canadian periodicals have been dropped, and so has the only South African title, the *South African Journal of Science* which was included from 1926-1946.

The present volume covers about 460 periodicals with no restriction to subject field, but very specialized scientific and technical journals are excluded as their contents are dealt with by sectional abstracts and indexes. A complete list of the periodicals covered is given in abbreviated form at the beginning of the volume, together with the address, frequency of publication, and price per number or per year. Some of the English journals which one would expect to find but which are not dealt with are *The Listener*, *New Statesman and Nation*, *Spectator*, *Illustrated London News*, and the recently started monthlies, *Corona* and *Journal of African Administration*.

On the whole the indexing seems to be thoroughly and accurately done but the index would have been easier to consult if references had been made more generously. References are not always made from subheadings of subjects so that these may easily be overlooked if the inquirer thinks in terms of the sub-heading. For example, there is a reference under Race Problems, see also subheading Race Problems under names of countries, but no similar direction under Antiquities or under Finance, both of which are subordinated to country. The heading Automobiles is used without reference from Motor cars; Hygiene, Public has no reference from Public Health or Public Hygiene. British Commonwealth of Nations is not connected with Great Britain — Colonies and Colonial policy. Again see references are often made from one subject to another for a single article when a double entry would have been clearer.

There seems to be no uniformity in the method of citation, and the following different forms are used:

Public health, Mr., 116-17  
Aberdeen Univ. R. vol. 33 no. 4: 417-22  
Nature 166: 549-50.

These are minor points of criticism, but the main deficiencies of this Index still remain the absence of author entries or an author index, and the fact that no cumulative volumes are issued covering a period of years. At least 50 of the titles indexed are already covered by the Indexes prepared by the H. W. Wilson Co., and the latter have the added advantage that they appear more promptly and are cumulative. Is this not unnecessary duplication?

If the particular titles already covered were omitted, and the remaining titles pruned still further the saving effected might make it possible to issue a 5-year cumulative volume with an author index.  
I. I.

**The Year's Work in librarianship**, volume xv' 1948; edited for the Library Association by W. A' Munford. London, Library Association, 1952. x, 281p. £2 (30s. to members).

Another volume of *The Year's Work* follows closely on the one reviewed in our January, 1952 issue; in common with so many books at this time, its price has climbed by quite an appreciable amount (from 30s. to £2 for the public and from 22s. 6d. to 30s. for members).

Certain of the usual material has been omitted this year — for instance, library co-operation and classification are to be dealt with in the subsequent volume, but there is a new chapter on research in librarianship by the Professor of Librarianship at the University of California.

The amount of material that the writers of each chapter have to go through is becoming enormous. In the field of special libraries alone, Mr. Roberts states that

"If we exclude annual reports, most items which are purely bibliographical in character, most of those concerned with reproduction techniques, and most of those dealing with cataloguing and classification, we are still left with an average of something like one item per day throughout the year."

Some of the chapters are exceedingly thorough in the way they use their sources; South African librarians will be interested to see that the writer on Country and Rural libraries has not only gone to *Ons Eie Boek*, but also to the *Transvaal Provincial Yearbook and Diary*, and many of the writers seem actually to have read the Russian *Bibliotekar*, a most formidable undertaking, as those who have seen the copies received in exchange for S.A.L. will realize.

We in this country are naturally very interested to see what is said about libraries here. Generous treatment is given to our rural schemes, our national and university libraries and our special libraries. It is all the more surprising, therefore, to come across this paragraph in the chapter on urban libraries:

"The history of the libraries of South Africa is also dealt with by A. M. L. Robinson and shows that the public library movement in South Africa is contained within two capital cities and the national library at Cape Town. There has been no development of the public library system as it exists in Great Britain."

It would be interesting to know what the Johannesburg Public Library, to mention no others, thinks about this sweeping statement. It is, however,

all too easy for us, on the spot, to criticize those far away, who are, in any case, dependent on our own writings for their information.

*The Year's Work* remains one of the most solid contributions to librarianship we have and the obvious necessity for compression is not always a disadvantage to writers on library matters.

H. M

**Changing patterns of scholarship and the future of research libraries.** Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1951. x, 133p.

This symposium has been published in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the University of Pennsylvania Library, and shows clearly the strength and defects of this blend of public and private discussion, which our American colleagues carry off with obvious enjoyment and aplomb. The problems that beset the directors of the large American libraries of research are not likely to worry us in South Africa for some time to come; but on a small scale they have their counterparts, and such matters as the need for co-operative storage and the sharing-out of costly research material are of universal application. Among the many wise remarks by the distinguished contributors to this work is one by Mr. Ralph E. Ellsworth: 'At the moment we do not need any more ideas. We need to use the ones we have'. A stimulating book, well presented and impeccably produced.

**Wild, Elisabeth:** Visual aids in public libraries, James Clarke, 1951. 96p. 8s. 6d.

Based on practice in the Nottinghamshire County Libraries, this short work is notable for its useful lists of suppliers' addresses (almost entirely British), and as a good introduction to the world of filmstrips, epidiascopes, record collections and the rest of the modern extension librarian's paraphernalia. There are chapters on display work, and on cataloguing, classification, storage and issue of this type of material, and another on the making of models.

**Harrod, L. M.:** The libraries of Greater London, a guide. Bell, 1951. vii, 252p. 25s.

For those who know where to look London has libraries on almost every conceivable subject; with the publication of this guide their great variety strikes one anew. Smoke abatement, Temperance, Penal reform, Cremation: something for everybody, and the information given includes not only the address but size and description of stock, particulars of staff, opening hours and special services (such as inter-loan, microfilm). The entries are alphabetical, with a subject index.

**Kingery, Robert E.:** How-to-do-it books, a selected guide. New York, Bowker, 1950. xxvi, 293p. \$1.50.

The object of this handbook is clearly set out in the introduction: to list the 'know-how' books, pamphlets, government documents and other

printed materials relating to the non-vocational, spare-time, recreational and home-making activities of men and women; and to supplement *The Bookman's Manual* in these respects. Its chief use is likely to be as a quick-reference guide to sources of information, with entries almost entirely confined to titles in print and available in the United States: it would be useful, as a balance, to have as thorough a guide to material from European sources.

Each entry comprises title, author, publisher, date, pagination and price, and there are brief annotations. The scope of the subjects covered may be indicated by a random selection of headings: Baton-twirling, Bottles ('check-list of 500 types of bitters and related bottles for the collector'), Houses (10 pages of references to all aspects from planning to decorating), Kite-flying, Photography (15 pages), Politics (one entry only), Retiring (3 books on How to do it), Shepherds' Pipes (How to make them) and Taxes (how to fill up income-tax forms). There is a thoroughly-compiled index to headings, and a directory of American publishers.

The subject approach is all-important in public library work, and this handbook should prove useful in our Provincial Library systems. The compiler was formerly on the staff of the New York Public Library, and has produced a most practical library tool.

**Allsop, K. M.:** A mental hospital library, (Library Association pamphlet no. 6). Library Association, 1951. 44p. 5s.

**Watson, R. F.:** Prison libraries, (Library Association pamphlet no. 7.) Library Association, 1951. 45p. 5s.

In sponsoring these outline accounts of special types of library work the Library Association is doing a particularly useful service. Apart from bringing together in concise form information which tends to be scattered in professional and technical journals, the two publications under review provide, in the first instance, an excellent and understanding account of the building-up of one successful hospital library as a form of 'educational therapy'; and in the other, an indication of the widely differing standards applied to prison libraries in different parts of the world. South Africa has half-a-page, and the foot-note: 'The policy of the Prison Department is the provision of books which will prevent mental stagnation'. Both pamphlets serve to remind us how much remains to be done in both fields in Southern Africa.

**Egoff, S. A.:** Children's periodicals of the nineteenth century, (Library Association pamphlet no. 8). Library Association, 1951. 55p. 5s.

Considering the immense literature on children's books it is surprising that there has hitherto been no full list of children's periodicals, and no really adequate study of the subject. Not the least valuable part of Miss Egoff's short work is a 16-page chronological bibliography of children's periodicals from *The Young gentlemen's and ladies'*

*magazine* of 1799 to *Tiny tots*, which dates back to 1899, and was still going strong in 1948. 'The children's magazines of the nineteenth century were institutions such as those of to-day can never hope or need to be', with our thriving creative children's literature, and growing facilities for children's reading. For this reason alone they have an importance out of proportion to their content as 'literature', though some of the best and most lasting children's tales first appeared in their pages. A full index of titles is here provided.

**UNESCO.** Bibliographies in the social sciences: selected inventory of periodical publications 1951. 129p.

This is an important pioneer work, summarizing a number of significant papers on existing social science abstracts, problems relating to official documents, and the desiderata for a unified bibliography for the social sciences. But perhaps the

most practical section is the last, giving an inventory of present documentary services in this field, and some highly instructive facsimiles of fourteen of the most important. The work is clearly and tastefully printed, and a model of its kind.

**University of Cape Town Libraries.** A list of periodicals and other serial publications currently received by the University Libraries. 1952.ii, 99p. *Mimeographed.*

The rapid expansion of the U.C.T. Libraries during the past decade, and especially the growth of its Exchange and Gift organization, is reflected in this list of some 1,700 serial publications taken in one or other of the five libraries of the University. The list has been compiled by Dr. G. Levy, the assistant-in-charge of the Periodicals Department, and forms a useful and impressive guide to the current material in her immediate charge.

### WORKS LIBRARIES AS AN AID TO PRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

"Knowledge is an accumulation of past experience and new ideas and does not come together haphazardly but by concentrated study and application, the material for which is supplied by the works library. In this respect the library is as useful and as necessary a tool of production in small concerns as in larger establishments.

The librarian ... is a specialist in that he must understand the needs of the metallurgist, the technician and management, and draw their attention to whatever ... trends are pertinent to their work, understand the sources from which the necessary information ... can be obtained, keep an easily understandable, quickly referable, and constantly reliable record of technical literature."

The writer goes on to explain methods of circulating literature to people interested and of cataloguing and filing articles of permanent value.

Then the need is stressed for co-operation between the public library, the university library and the works (and other special) libraries in the town, so that each may have the widest possible resources at its disposal.

"It is surely the duty of every training officer or education officer to ensure that the trainee is instructed in how to use the library as a source of information and study and as one of the tools of his future trade."

<sup>1</sup> Excerpts from an article by Harold K. Styring in *The Times review of industry*, 6 (63) n.s.p. 17. Apr 1952.

### INFORMATION SERVICES AND INDUSTRY<sup>1</sup>

On 18 March the Federation of British Industries and Aslib jointly arranged a conference in London on "Information Services and Industry", aimed chiefly to put the need for internal information services before firms of intermediate size.

"Many of them are conscious of the impulse that technical and statistical research already recorded can give to their activities, and not a few make attempts to keep abreast of current information. But this function of industry, as much as any other, should call for efficiency and economy, and it is neither efficient nor economical for chief chemists, design engineers or sales directors to spend half their day reading and recording ... In the long run, efficiency and economy are best served by a competent information officer and ... by a properly organized information department."

Two speakers "illustrated their papers with examples from their research experience of ways in which the presentation of a piece of information at the right moment and in the right form had led to new pro-

ducts and new processes within their organizations. ..."

"We have not been willing to recognize that the necessity for organization and integration of data of scientific discovery is precisely as important as its original discovery."

"... industry's daily need is not for scientific information alone. A new product is of little use if it cannot be manufactured within the law, transported without deterioration, and marketed at a reasonable price. Much therefore needs to be done to that existing information about world markets, comparative distribution costs and the legal and sociological aspects of industrial production. ..."

"The need now is for research into costs and into the refinement of techniques that can make of information service the exact science which it ought to be."

<sup>1</sup> Excerpts from *Nature*, 169 (4302), 595-6, Apr. 12 1952.